



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of:  
Reinhard Doenges et al.

Docket: ZOU-1998DE503/CONT

Serial Number: 09/955,864

Group Art Unit: 1623

Filed: 09/19/2001

Examiner: Everett White

For: Water-Soluble Sulfoalkyl Containing Hydrophobically Modified Cellulose Ethers  
Processes for Preparing Them and Their Use in Emulsion Paints

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In further response to the Office Action mailed October 27, 2003, please consider the following remarks:

**REMARKS**

A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith in this application. It is requested that the amendment filed January 27, 2004 be entered. The Advisory Action mailed February 25, 2004 indicates that upon the entry of this amendment, the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, would be overcome.

The examiner has rejected claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102 over EP0781780 to Miyajima et al. It is respectfully urged that this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

The invention relates to a process for preparing a cellulose ether comprising the steps of etherifying cellulose with an etherifying agent from the group of alkylene oxides and etherifying with a C<sub>12</sub> or C<sub>15-17</sub> alkyl glycidyl ether and a sulfonate, with base catalysis to